



Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women As I Knew Them

By Frank Langella

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Rita Hayworth dancing by candlelight; Elizabeth Taylor tenderly wrapping him in her Pashmina scarf; streaking for Sir Laurence Olivier in a drafty English castle; terrifying a dozing Jackie Onassis; carrying an unconscious Montgomery Clift to safety on a dark New York street...

Captured forever in a unique memoir, Frank Langella's myriad encounters with some of the past century's most famous human beings are profoundly affecting, funny, wicked, sometimes shocking, and utterly irresistible. With sharp wit and a perceptive eye, Mr. Langella takes us with him into the private worlds and privileged lives of movie stars, presidents, royalty, literary lions, the social elite, and the greats of the Broadway stage. We learn something, too, of Mr. Langella's personal journey from the age of fifteen to the present day. *Dropped Names* is, like its subjects, riveting and unforgettable.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Splendid. . . . As much a memoir as a primer on the vicissitudes of an actor’s life, the book is a collage based on real-life situations that offer touching insights into stars like Rita Hayworth, and into the practical magic that informs Langella’s signature sensibility.” (The New Yorker)

“Rarely have I read a book about celebrities that is as insightful, candid, revealing, and as well-written as this one. Frank Langella’s memoir is not the usual author’s ego trip, but rather his remembrances of the many accomplished men and women that he has come to know.” (Gay Talese, author of *A Writer's Life*)

“A delightfully unabashed page-turner about people we wish we had known in the throes of work, love, and growing old.” (A.R. Gurney, award-winning playwright)

“Engaging. . . . Not just Langella’s “famous people I have known,” but a heartfelt love letter to the theater and to the days when stars were stars, not merely celebrities.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Dropped Names is a sizzling platter of stellar vignettes—pungent, for sure, but poignant too. . . . Mr. Langella is surgically precise, and eloquent. . . . The human condition in most of its vagaries is beautifully rendered between these pages.” (Liz Smith)

“ If Frank Langella’s memoir simply did what its title promises, it would be deep-dish gossip. But his memories of the stars he’s encountered during a lengthy career on Broadway and in film shed perceptive light on the costs of pursuing and maintaining fame.” (Detroit Free Press)

“Langella’s uncommonly eloquent book is enjoyable for the panoply of great names who turn up. . . . A natural raconteur, he seems to fit precisely Henry James’s famous description of the novelist as one ‘on whom nothing is lost.’” (New York Times)

“Frank Langella’s *DROPPED NAMES* is a different kind of memoir. . . . Not many of his peers could write such an eloquently dishy book.” (Los Angeles Times)

“The 65 chapters in this satisfyingly scandalous memoir paint Broadway and Hollywood as teeming with vulgar, neurotic and irresistible company, and Langella as relentlessly affable in the face of nonstop groping by celebrities in far-flung locations.” (Paperback Row, *New York Times*)

From the Back Cover

Captured forever in a unique memoir, Broadway and film star Frank Langella's myriad encounters with some of the past century's most famous human beings are profoundly affecting, funny, wicked, sometimes shocking, and utterly irresistible. With sharp wit and a perceptive eye, Mr. Langella takes us with him into the private worlds and privileged lives of movie stars, presidents, royalty, literary lions, the social elite, and the greats of the Broadway stage.

How did Mr. Langella terrify a dozing Jackie Onassis? Why did he streak for Sir Laurence Olivier in an English castle? What led Elizabeth Taylor to wrap him in her pashmina scarf? Why did the Queen Mother need Mr. Langella's help? And what did Marilyn Monroe say to him that helped change the course of his life?

Through these shared experiences, we learn something, too, of Mr. Langella's personal journey from the age of fifteen to the present day. Like its author—and its subjects—*Dropped Names* is simply riveting and unforgettable.

About the Author

Frank Langella has been a professional actor for over five decades and hopes to carry on for several more. He began performing as a boy in his hometown of Bayonne, New Jersey, and currently resides in New York City. This is his first book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Knight:

The publication with title *Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women As I Knew Them* has a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This specific book exist new understanding the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you inside new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

Jon Pittenger:

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Sammy Cheney:

This *Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women As I Knew Them* is great e-book for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great coordinate word or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having *Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women As I Knew Them* in your hand like getting the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no reserve that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this reserve already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

Alexander Taylor:

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